Import of Coal Machinery

5688. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of machines imported for B.C.C.L. during the last three years;

(b) whether these are operating in accordance with their capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether penalty has been imposed on the foreign suppliers for the machines which had not worked in accordance with their capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Details of machines imported for Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during the last three years are as under :

S.No.	Description	Quantity	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Wet Drum Magnetic Separator	1	3.68
2.	Breathing Apparatus BG-174	19	33
3.	Pumping Unit	12	220.16
4.	Submersible Pumps	8	171.32

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (f). In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

Prices of Coal

5689. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of different qualities of coal have gone up by 10 to 20% in the recent months after these were decontrolled;

(b) if so, the details of the said price rise in respect of the different qualities of coal, grade-wise, during the last six months;

(c) whether after nationalisation of coal sector, the production of coal has witnessed only five to six per cent increase whereas the prices thereof have been increase twelve times;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The details of the deregulated varieties of coal and prices fixed for each of them by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) alongwith the percentage increase are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The current average price of coal produced by CIL is Rs. 469.02 per tonne which is about 12.5 times of the average price of Rs. 37.50 per tonne at the time of nationalisation.

The current average price of coal produced by SCCL is Rs. 530 per tonne which is about 10.5 times of the average price of Rs. 50.50 per tonne after nationalisation.

The coal production by CIL and SCCL together during 1995-96 is 264.05 million tonnes (approximately) which is about 3.51 times of 75.27 m.t. of coal produced by these two companies during 1973-74.

(d) Coal prices are increased owing to escalation in the cost of various inpus, increase in wages, etc. whereas coal production is increased over the years to meet the targetted demands of various sectors of economy. The increase in coal prices has, therefore, no nexus with the increase in coal production.

(e) The main factors influencing the cost of production of coal are the increase in the cost of inputs and wages, over which the coal companies do not have any direct control. The Government attempts to control prices by taking steps to check inflation in the economy and by insisting that productivity is improved.

STATEMENT

Coal prices fixed by CIL and SCCL in March-April, 1996 after the Government decision on deregulation of pricing of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal—percentages of increase after such price fixation.

(i) CIL (Rs. per tonne)

Categories of Coal	CIL subsidiaries other than MCL & WCL as revised on 1.4.1996	MCL as revised on 1.4.1996	WCL as revised on 22.3.96
1	2	3	4
Coking Coal			
SG-I	1310 (25%)	1310 (25%)	1310 (25%)
SG-II	1094 (25.2%)	1094 (25.2%)	1094 (25.2%)
Washery-I	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)
Washery-II	785 (25%)	785 (25%)	785 (25%)

1	2	3	4
Washery-III	580	580	765
	(20.08%)	(20.68%)	(58.38%)
Washery-IV	540	540	628
	(20%)	(20%)	(39.5%)
Semi-Coking-I	948	948	946
	(25.06%)	(25.06%)	(25.06%)
Semi-Coking-II	785	785	785
	(25%)	(25%)	(25%)
Non-Coking			
A	771	739	936
	(20.09%)	(15.10%)	(45.7%)
B	692	663	880
	(18.08%)	(13.13%)	(50.1%)
C	590	565	795
	(15%)	(10.13%)	(54.97%)

(ii) SCCL

Categories of Coal	As revised on 19.4 1996
Non-Coking	
B	880
C	795
	(20.45%)

SCCL do not produce coking coal. They produce only B and C grades of non-coking coal, the prices of which have been fixed by them with effect from 19.4.1996. Earlier they were not producing B grade of non-coking coal.

[English]

Fraud in IDBI

5690. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware of the fraudulent encashment of the Industrial Development Bank of India interest warrants worth Rs. 3.25 crores;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry committee has been constituted in the matter;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry committee and action taken thereon; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). IDBI have reported that as per the arrangement with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) used to issue inferest warrants drawn on RBI in favour of the Bondholders and such interest warrants were invariably backed by corresponding advices to RBI. In December, 1994, it was brought to the notice of IDBI by Crime Branch, CID, Mumbai that two forged interest warrants dated November/December, 1994 for amount of about Rs. 3.25 crores have been presented for payment on IDBI's account with RBI. On verification, it was revealed that the said interest warrants were unauthorised instruments. IDBI also lodged a police complaint in April, 1995 and the investigation has not yet been completed.

Economic Growth

5691. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister assured the industrial sector that Government would clear bottlenecks in the way of faster economic growth, streamline procedures for speedy clearance of projects and tone up the infrastructure as a whole;

(b) whether the Prime Minister had also called meeting of the representatives of trade and industry in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the representatives have suggested certain measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Review of policy parameters and dialogue with Trade and Industry at various levels with a view to streamline the procedures and remove irritants wherever possible is a continuous process. Suggestions also continue to be received from various quarters on policy aspects. These are given due consideration.

Maintenance of Share Transfer Registers

5692. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of top 20 private sector companies in terms of their Market Capitalization which maintain register and share transfer functioning in-house and which have out-sourced them;

(b) the details of the companies which are keeping arms-length relationship with their Registrars and Transfer Agents;

(c) whether SEBI has any proposal to direct such listed Companies to entrust their functions of Registrar and Transfer Agents to separate entities which have an arms-length relationship with their Registrars and Transfer Agents;

(d) if so, whether SEBI has formulated any guidelines to ensure compliance by the listed companies;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the manner in which the investors interest is proposed to be protected by the SEBI ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The details of 20 such companies and the names of their Share Transfer Agents as furnished by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are given in the attached Statement. Out of these companies, only 2 companies which are listed at sl. No. 14 and 20 in the Statement have an arms-length relationship with their Share Transfer Agents.

(c) to (e). A recommendation that SEBI should consider amendments to the SEBI (Registrar to an Issue an Share